STATE OF RHODE ISLAND
IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY
JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2020

SENATE RESOLUTION
REAFFIRMING THE FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN RHODE ISLAND AND TAIWAN,
supporting the enhancement of bilateral trade relations and
expressing support for Taiwan in the international community

Introduced By: Senators Crowley, Picard, Nesselbush, and Lombardo
Date Introduced: February 27, 2020
Referred To: Placed on the Senate Consent Calendar

WHEREAS, The United States and the Republic of China (Taiwan) share a most
important bilateral relationship marked by a mutually beneficial partnership, supported by our
common values of freedom, democracy, rule of law, and a free market economy. Our two
countries now enjoy the strongest relations they have ever had; and

WHEREAS, President Tsai Ing-wen, re-elected on January 11, 2020, for a second-term
in a direct, open, and democratic election, has worked tirelessly to uphold constitutional
principles and a civil society in Taiwan, ensure the prosperity of Taiwan’s 23.5 million people,
promote international standing, and expressed commitment to peace and understanding in the
Indo-Pacific region; and

WHEREAS, United States Secretary of State Michael R. Pompeo congratulated President
Tsai Ing-wen on winning re-election and further stated that Taiwan and the United States are
“members of the same community of democracies” and that Taiwan is a “model for the Indo-
Pacific region and a force for good in the world” in a press statement on January 11, 2020; and

WHEREAS, The United States Departments of Commerce, Agriculture and State
clarified United States policy regarding Taiwan in a formal letter sent to the Governors of all fifty
states dated September 30, 2019, which stated that “expanding relations with Taiwan in areas
such as trade, education, investment, and tourism is fully compatible with and supports United
States policy and can be beneficial to your state and municipality”; and

WHEREAS, The Departments of Commerce, Agriculture, and State further stated that
“Our Departments encourage cooperation with Taiwan” and also noted that “Taiwan is a vital United States partner and democratic success story”; and

WHEREAS, President Tsai has expressed Taiwan’s desire to reach a Bilateral Trade Agreement (BTA) with the United States, and the United States Senate passed the “Taiwan Allies International Protection and Enhancement Initiative Act (TAIPEI) of 2019” (S.1678) on October 28, 2019, affirming that the “United States should engage in bilateral trade negotiations with Taiwan,” and a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Rhode Island and Taiwan regarding economic and trade exchange and cooperation that will promote bilateral trade; and

WHEREAS, The SARS pandemic in 2003 and now, since multiple cases of the novel coronavirus-nCoV have been diagnosed in the United States since January, 2020, make it imperative that Taiwan be included in the crucial network of the World Health Organization (WHO), and the World Health Assembly (WHA) in the global effort to contain, prevent, and combat the spread of such viruses; and

WHEREAS, The United States ranks as Taiwan’s 2nd largest trade partner, and Taiwan is the 10th largest trading partner of the United States, with bilateral trade in goods and services between the United States and Taiwan amounting to approximately $85.5 billion in 2019, and said trade has created or supported approximately 373,288 United States jobs according to the United States Department of Commerce; and

WHEREAS, New England exported more than $1 billion in goods to Taiwan in which Rhode Island exported $31.1 million in goods, mostly in primary metal manufacturing, chemicals, computer and electronic products, making Taiwan Rhode Island’s 17th largest export market in the world and the 6th largest export market in Asia (2018). Taiwan and the United States seek to increase trade and investment through bilateral trade agreements, resulting in even greater Rhode Island exports to Taiwan, educational and culture exchange, scientific and technological interests, and tourism; and

WHEREAS, Taiwan is the 18th largest global market and its inclusion in international organizations such as the World Health Organization (WHO), International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), and the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) is in the best interest and safety of the international community. Taiwan is a key transport hub for international air travel and a large flight path in the Asia-Pacific remains under Taiwan’s jurisdiction. In addition, Taiwan’s inclusion in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) is necessary in the global effort to combat climate change; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
hereby seeks to further strengthen United States-Taiwan and Taiwan-Rhode Island trade and
investment relations, including a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on trade, and
encourages the Rhode Island State Government to further explore ways in which to strengthen
and promote bilateral trade between Taiwan and Rhode Island; and be it further

RESOLVED, That this Senate hereby supports Taiwan’s participation in international
organizations and agreements, including the WHO, WHA, INTERPOL, UNFCCC and ICAO;
and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to the Honorable Donald J. Trump, President of
the United States, the Rhode Island Congressional delegation, President Tsai Ing-wen, Republic
of China (Taiwan), and Douglas Y.T. Hsu, Director-General of the Taipei Economic Cultural
Office of Boston.

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